

**HB 2202-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Directs the department of agriculture to commission a comprehensive study of the direct, indirect, and induced impacts of agriculture and food processing on the state's economy. The study shall consider the multiplier effects of the agriculture and food industries on sectors such as: Transportation; research and development; retailing; packaging; distribution and storage; inputs; banking; law; manufacturing; tourism; and other relevant industries. The study shall include data on the statewide and regional impacts of the agriculture and food processing industries; growth trends of specific commodities and value-added products; and external events or conditions that are affecting the economic performance of the agriculture and food industry overall.

Requires the study to also assess the economic linkages between the food processing sector and agricultural commodities, specifically the extent to which Washington food manufacturers use local and regional commodities in their processing.

Requires the department of agriculture to submit a report on the study findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2006.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the department of agriculture for the purposes of this act.